

4412 (1) DARTFORD

Borough of Dartford.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1935.

T. FARTHING,
Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF DARTFORD.

Annual Report for 1935 of the Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
DARTFORD,

30th April, 1936.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF DARTFORD.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my report as Medical Officer of Health for the year 1935.

The Report is arranged in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health and is an Ordinary Report as contrasted with the Survey Reports required at intervals of five years.

I should like to again express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their cordial support during the year and also to the Staff of the Public Health Department for their co-operation.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS FARTHING,

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF.

*DR. T. FARTHING, M.B. (Edin).—Medical Officer of Health (part time); also Medical Officer, Dartford Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital, Dartford.

*DR. MARIE L. P. CRAWFORD, M.B., B.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., M.M.S.A.—Medical Officer of Child Welfare Clinics, also late Assistant Medical Officer, Alexandra Hospital, Swanley.

*W. E. BALCHIN, A.R.S.I.—Sanitary Inspector (certified as Sanitary Inspector and as Meat and Other Food Inspector); also Inspector under the Shops, Petroleum, and Hackney Carriage Acts.

G. SAFFIN, Assistant Sanitary Inspector (certified as Sanitary Inspector and as Meat and Other Food Inspector). Resigned appointment August 3rd, 1935.

T. PYKE, Assistant Sanitary Inspector (certified as Sanitary Inspector and as Meat and Other Food Inspector). Commenced duties August 12th, 1935.

*MISS A. A. BRIMBLE.—Health Visitor (R.S.I.), 3 years Trained Nurse, C.M.B.

*MISS E. NEALE.—Health Visitor (R.S.I.), S.R.N., C.M.B.

MISS E. SORRELL.—Clerk to Department.

* Contribution to salary by Exchequer Grant.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	4,234
Population (Registrar-General's estimated figure Mid-1935) ...	31,870
Population (Census, 1931)	28,928
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1935) according to Rate Books	8,080
Rateable Value	£248,425
Sum represented by 1d. rate	£950

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

The Borough of Dartford is situate in the lower portion of the Darent Valley, and the rising ground to the East and West of the river. The area of the district is 4,234 statute acres.

The district is chiefly an industrial one, but there is a residential area at the west end of the town, in the neighbourhood of The Heath, with a growing number of residents whose business is outside the Borough.

There is, in addition to the ordinary population, a large institutional population as the following institutions are situate in the District :—

London County Council Hospitals, Joyce Green, Orchard and Long Reach.
 London County Mental Hospital.
 Kent County Council, The County Hospital.
 St. Vincent's Industrial School.

STAPLE INDUSTRIES.

The principal industries of the district are :—

Engineering.	Tanning.
Paper Making.	Silk Printing.
Manufacture of Drugs and Chemicals.	Flour Milling.

There are no industries in the district which have a prejudicial effect on health.

Unemployment in Dartford is not so great as in many of the towns in the country. Separate figures for the Borough are not available. The area served by the Dartford Employment Exchange comprises Dartford Borough, Crayford Urban District and Dartford Rural District. I am informed by the manager that the number of persons registered as unemployed during the year 1935 varied as follows :—

Number registered as unemployed.			Percentage of insured persons in area.		
	—			—	
January	...	1405		7.3	
June	...	865		4.5	
December	...	862		4.4	

OPEN SPACES.

The District is well provided with open spaces for pleasure and recreation which include :—

Dartford Heath	340 acres.
Central Park	 29 acres.
Hesketh Park	 10 acres.

Facilities for outdoor sports are provided at all these open spaces.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1935.

						Males.	Females.	Total.
Live Births —Legitimate						223	237	460
Illegitimate						9	4	13
						232	241	473
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of population						...	...	14.84
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales for the same period						...	...	14.7
Still Births —Number of still births during the year...						...	...	20
Rate per 1,000 total births						...	...	42.28
						Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths						147	127	274
Death Rate per 1,000 of population						...	...	8.6
Death Rate for England and Wales for the year						...	...	11.7
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :-						...	...	...
From Sepsis						...	...	1
Other Causes						...	...	None
						Males.	Females.	Total.
Infantile Mortality.						8	9	17
Legitimate						1	2	3
Illegitimate						9	11	20
Death Rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births						...	...	42.07
Infantile Death Rate for England and Wales for 1935						...	...	57

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes	Certified	11	...	...	1	12	...	7	...	1	20
	Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping-cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis(not tuberculous)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	3	...	...	4
Congenital malformation	...	3	...	...	...	3	...	1	...	...	4
Premature Birth	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	2
Other Causes	...	4	...	...	...	4	...	1	...	...	5
Totals	...	11	...	...	1	12	...	7	...	1	20

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEARS 1934-1935.

Causes of Death.	1934.		1935.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...	...
2. Small Pox	...	...	...	...
3. Measles.	...	...	...	...
4. Scarlet Fever	1	...	1	1
5. Whooping Cough.	...	...	...	1
6. Diphtheria.	1	2	1	...
7. Influenza.	3	...	...	...
8. Encephalitis lethargica.	...	1	...	...
9. Cerebro-spinal fever.	...	...	...	.
10. Tuberculosis of respiratory system.	11	10	9	7
11. Other tuberculous diseases.	...	1	...	2
12. Syphilis.	...	...	1	...
13. General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis.	1	...	...	...
14. Cancer, malignant disease.	19	15	30	18
15. Diabetes.	2	2	2	4
16. Cerebral haemorrhage, &c.	1	10	6	5
17. Heart disease.	43	45	33	35
18. Aneurism.	...	...	...	...
19. Other circulatory diseases.	5	6	8	8
20. Bronchitis.	1	3	4	8
21. Pneumonia (all forms).	6	7	8	4
22. Other respiratory diseases.	2	3	...	1
23. Peptic ulcer.	5	2	4	...
24. Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years).	...	2	3	1
25. Appendicitis.	1	...	1	1
26. Cirrhosis of liver.	...	1	1	...
27. Other diseases of liver, etc.	1	2	...	2
28. Other digestive diseases.	1	3	6	3
29. Acute and chronic nephritis.	6	3	4	1
30. Puerperal sepsis.	...	...	...	1
31. Other puerperal causes.	...	2	...	...
32. Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	11	13	4	4
33. Senility.	...	2	1	1
34. Suicide.	1	1	3	2
35. Other violence.	2	3	7	5
36. Other defined diseases.	17	8	10	11
37. Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	1
Totals	<u>141</u>	<u>147</u>	<u>147</u>	<u>127</u>

SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL STATISTICS FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS, 1931—1935.

	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935
Population (Registrar General's estimated figure).	29,290	29,260	30,210	31,440	31,870
Births	429	458	428	436	473
Birth Rate	14.64	15.65	14.16	13.86	14.84
Still-births	8	7	12	14	20
Birth Rate (England & Wales).	15.8	15.3	14.4	14.8	14.7
Deaths	246	283	283	288	274
Death Rate	8.39	9.6	9.36	9.16	8.6
Death Rate (England & Wales)	12.3	11.8	12.3	11.8	11.7
Deaths of infants under 1 year	16	23	18	31	20
Infantile Death Rate	37.29	50.2	42.05	71.1	42.07
Infantile Death Rate (England & Wales).	66	65	64	59	57

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

(A) HOME NURSING.

The Dartford District Nursing Association, supported by voluntary contributions, maintains three District Nurses.

The Corporation make a grant to this Association and in return the services of the Nurses are available for the home nursing of cases of Measles, Whooping Cough and cases referred by the Child Welfare Clinic.

(B) MIDWIVES.

There are seven midwives practising in the Borough. The controlling authority for midwives is the Kent County Council.

(C) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The following are the Clinics and treatment centres in the town :—

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, Market Street. Maintained by the Council.

School Clinic, King Edward Avenue ...	... }	Maintained by the Kent
Tuberculosis Clinic, Overy Street ...	... }	County Council.
Venereal Clinic, The County Hospital ...	... }	

(D) HOSPITAL SERVICES.

1. The County Hospital, West Hill, for General Purposes, under the management of Kent County Council (Public Assistance Committee), available for persons resident in the area under the control of the Public Assistance Committee and by private patients from the same area.

2. Livingstone Hospital, East Hill, for General Purposes, supported by Voluntary Contributions under the management of a voluntary committee, available for persons resident in the Dartford Borough and Dartford Rural Districts.

3. Bow Arrow Isolation Hospital, Bow Arrow Lane (for Infectious Diseases) under the management of the Joint Hospital Committee, available for persons resident in Dartford Borough, Dartford Rural District, Bexley Urban District, Crayford Urban District, and Swanscombe Urban District. The extensions to the Hospital referred to in my last year's report have been commenced and will provide, in addition to a new administration block, new wards, which will bring the total accommodation for patients up to 133 beds. Cases of Small Pox are admitted into the London County Council Small Pox Hospital, Joyce Green.

(E) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(i). INFECTIOUS CASES.—The Dartford Joint Hospital Committee maintain two ambulances for the removal of cases of infectious disease from their homes to the hospital.

(ii). GENERAL CASES.—The local division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade continues to do very useful work. They maintain a motor ambulance which is available for accidents and the removal of sick persons to local or London hospitals.

During the year 1935, the following cases were dealt with by this ambulance :—

First Aid cases (of which 68 were road accidents)	248
Sick removals to local hospitals	244
Sick removals to London hospitals and other places	75

The charges made for the use of the ambulance are as follows :—

To local hospitals 5/-

To London hospitals and other removals outside the District 9d. per mile (both journeys) with special terms for distances over 100 miles.

There is also a scheme whereby subscribers of a minimum of 1/- per year are entitled to the free use of the ambulance for removals to local hospitals, etc. and at 6d. per mile for longer journeys.

First aid duties are also carried out by members of the division at the local Cinemas, Football Grounds, etc., and road service during the summer months.

The Ambulance of the Kent County Council Public Assistance Committee is also available, on payment of the scale of charges fixed by the Council, for the removal of patients within and outside the District.

LABORATORY WORK.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The work is carried out at the Kent County Council Laboratory, Sessions House, Maidstone.

During the year the following specimens were submitted for diagnosis :—

Diphtheria swabs	...	...	...	...	...	...	169
Tuberculosis sputa	...	...	...	...	...	...	163
Typhoid, including Widal test	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Cerebro-spinal Fluid	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Samples of Grade "A" (T.T.) Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Samples of Milk for T.B.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Samples of Milk supplied to schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Various specimens	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE IN THE BOROUGH.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890. Parts II, III and V.

Adopted 2nd, January, 1891.

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890

Adopted 7th February, 1902.

Notification of Births Act, 1907.

Adopted 2nd October, 1912.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

Sections 18, 19, 21, 22, 26 and 33 in Part II	...	...	} Adopted 2nd April, 1909
Sections 37, 48, 50 and 51 in Part III	...	...	
Sections 60, 62, 63 and 68 in Part IV...	...	...	
Whole of Part V	...	...	
Whole of Part VI	...	...	} Adopted 19th March, 1909.
Sections 79, 80, 85 and 86 in Part VII	...	...	
Section 90 in Part VIII	...	...	
Section 95 in Part X	...	...	

Public Health Act, 1925. Parts II, III, IV and V adopted 2nd December, 1925.

The Dartford Improvement Act, 1902, contains clauses relating to Drainage, Milk Supply and Infectious Diseases.

BYE-LAWS.

The Corporation have Bye-laws relating to the following :—

Common Lodging Houses
Good Rule and Government.
Houses Let in Lodgings (Housing Act, 1925).
Means of Escape from Fire (Factories and Workshops).
Nuisances.
Offensive Trades.
Removal of Offensive Matter.
Slaughterhouses.
Tents, Vans and Sheds.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The District is supplied with water by the Metropolitan Water Board.

With the exception of a few isolated houses in the rural portions of the district, the whole of the houses are connected to the Metropolitan Water Board's mains. During the year three of these houses were connected to the M.W.B. mains.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No cases of pollution have been noticed or dealt with during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The district is, and has been for many years, main sewered, and the water carriage system is general. The sewage is dealt with by the West Kent Main Sewage Board (of which the Dartford Corporation is a constituent Authority) at their works at Long Reach, Dartford.

There are only 81 houses, situated in the more rural areas, which are not connected to the sewers. 99 % of the houses in the district are connected to the sewers.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The system is a water carriage one. In the more rural portions of the area, where main sewers are not available, there are the following houses with conveniences of the type mentioned :—

W.C.'s connected to cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	58
Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	21
Privies and earth closets	...	...	...	...	...	2

The cleansing of cesspools and pail closets is not carried out by the Local Authority but by the owners or occupiers of the premises.

SCAVENGING.

A collection of house refuse is made in the district weekly and in the central portion of the district, twice weekly.

The substitution of motors for horse drawn vehicles for refuse collection is being carried out.

House refuse has for many years been burnt at the Corporation's destructor. Owing to the growth of the Borough this destructor has become inadequate for the disposal of the whole of the refuse collected. Early in 1935 controlled tipping was commenced on a site between Heath Lane and Princes Road. The refuse from certain parts of the town is burnt at the destructor and the remainder is disposed of at the tip. There have been no complaints regarding this method of disposal and the work has been carried out very satisfactorily.

During the year 24 ash-bins have been provided in lieu of open brick ash-pits.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

This is dealt with in the Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector which is appended hereto.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES AND BATHS.

The Corporation have provided and maintain the following :—

Public conveniences with wash and brush up facilities and slipper baths for both sexes at Spital Street.

Public Conveniences for both sexes at the Central and Hesketh Parks.

Public Conveniences for men near the Cattle Market.

Three Urinals at various parts of the Town.

Open air Swimming Baths in Burnham Road.

The Baths and Public Lavatories at Spital Street, which were opened in November, 1931, have continued to prove very useful both to the inhabitants and visitors to the town.

The whole question of lavatory accommodation in the various parts of the town is being considered at the present time by the Corporation.

The number of persons using the Slipper Baths is shown below, together with comparative figures for 1934 :—

	1934	1935
Men	8,916	8,565
Boys	334	407
Women	3,095	2,785
Girls	207	127
TOTAL ..	12,552	11,884

The provision of a filtration plant for the open-air swimming baths at Burnham Road is being proceeded with and will be installed during 1936.

PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

There are two Central and nine Junior schools in the district. These are well lighted and ventilated, and the water supply and sanitary conditions are generally satisfactory. A new Central School was built during the year and opened early in 1936.

HOUSING.

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

(i)	By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	140
(ii)	By other bodies and persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	Houses	{ 245
								Flats		156
	Total	...							541

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) and the number of inspections made. Houses 323. Inspections	1076
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, and the number of inspections made. Houses 60. Inspections	237
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses under paragraph 2 (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	58

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	212
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Proceedings under Sec. 17, 18, and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices		
(a) By owners	...	1
(b) By local authority in default of Owners	...	None
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	10
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :		
(a) By owners	...	14
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	None
(c) Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :		
(1) Number of dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made (represented in 1933)	...	2
(2) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition orders	...	None
(3) Number of dwellings in respect of which " Undertaking by Owners to execute works " were accepted by the Council	...	None
(4) Number of dwellings rendered fit after " Undertaking by Owners to execute works " had been accepted by the Council	...	None
(5) Number of dwellings in respect of which undertaking not to use as a dwelling was accepted by the Council	...	None

(d) Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—

- | | |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of separate tenements of underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made... .. | 1 |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room being rendered fit | None |

During the year two houses and the basement rooms of one house were represented as unfit for human habitation.

The following numbers of houses were represented as unfit under Section 19 of the Housing Act, 1930, since that Act came into force :—

1930	..	..	11 houses.
1931	..	..	51 houses.
1932	..	..	4 houses.
1933	..	..	18 houses.
1935	..	..	2 houses.

The following table shows the result of such action during the year :—

Premises.	No. of Houses	Date of Representation.	Action taken.	Remarks.
Manor Place 9.	1	2— 8—33	Demolition Order made 4—10—33.	Further action deferred.
Hadlow Place. Lowfield Street 1 to 7.	7	9—11—33	Demolition Order made 12—3—34.	Appeal lodged and heard June, 1934. Order confirmed. Houses void.
Overy Street. 2 to 16.	8	27—12—33	Demolition Order made 12—2—34.	
Overy Street. 22.	1	27— 3—35	Closing Order made on basement rooms.	Basement rooms ceased to be used for living purposes.
Overy Street. 24 and 26.	2	27— 3—35	Demolition Order made 8— 7—35.	

In addition to the houses set out in the table, 58 houses have been inspected during the year under the Housing Act, and notices regarding repairs, etc., have been served with regard thereto.

During 1935, 385 houses and 156 flats were completed, giving a total of 541 dwellings.

The following table shows the number of new houses built during the past ten years :—

			Built by Council.	Private Subsidy.	Enterprise Non-Subsidy.	Total
1926	...	...	94	45	50	189
1927	...	...	256	107	32	395
1928	...	...	56	81	31	168
1929	...	...	—	125	84	209
1930	...	...	14	—	266	280
1931	...	...	76	—	232	308
1932	...	...	181	—	170	351
1933	...	...	112	—	408	520
1934	...	...	—	—	499	499
1935	...	...	140	—	401	541
Totals	...		929	358	2173	3460

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The taking of samples under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act is carried out by the Kent County Council, and the County Council being also the Authority under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Acts carries out the work under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923, the following licences were in force during the year :—

Certified (supplementary dealers)	...	...	...	...	...	2
Grade A (T.T.)	Bottling and Dealers	...	...	...	...	3
	Dealers only	...	...	...	...	3
	Supplementary Dealers	...	...	...	...	3
Grade A (Pasteurised)	Supplementary Dealers	...	...	...	...	1
Pasteurised.	Supplementary Dealers	...	...	...	...	3

Twelve samples of Graded milks were taken during the year.

The examination of Graded milks and other bacteriological work in connection with food is carried out by the Kent County Council at the County Bacteriological Laboratory.

No legal action has had to be taken under the Meat Regulations, 1924. There are two registered slaughterhouses in the district, and the notification of the times of slaughtering has been very satisfactory. 254 inspections have been made during the year.

The amount of **unsound** food destroyed during the year was 6 cwts., 3 qrs., 26 lbs.; particulars of which are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SMALLPOX.

No cases of Small Pox were notified during the year.

DIPHTHERIA.

The prevalence of diphtheria in 1934 continued during the first three months of 1935, during which period 24 cases were notified. The total number of cases

notified during the year was 33 (exclusive of institutional cases) as compared with 59 in 1934.

During the last six months of the year only one case was notified.

All the cases except one were removed to hospital. In addition, one suspected case was admitted to hospital for observation and was later found not to be diphtheria.

Facilities for immunisation against this disease were arranged during the year.

Contacts with cases notified, and also children referred to the Department by the school teachers, are swabbed with a view to the elimination of carriers.

Anti-toxin is supplied free to Medical Practitioners for use in cases of Diphtheria.

SCARLET FEVER.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified (excluding institutional cases) was 89 compared with 143 in 1934, of these 19 occurred in the first quarter, 20 in the second, 14 in the third and 36 in October to December.

Of these cases 45 were removed to hospital and 44 nursed at home.

There was only one return case during the year.

ENTERIC FEVER.

No cases of Enteric Fever were notified during the year.

MEASLES.

Measles is not notifiable under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, but the cases amongst children of school age are notified to the Department by the Head Teachers of Schools.

There was no marked prevalence of the disease during the year.

Home visitation of cases of measles is carried out by the nurses of the District Nursing Association when thought desirable.

Arrangements are in force whereby if the conditions are unsuitable for home nursing, cases can be admitted into the Bow Arrow Hospital.

CANCER.

The number of deaths from cancer was 48, being 17.39 per cent. of the total deaths as compared with :—

1934	...	34 deaths	11.8 per cent. of total deaths.
1933	...	33 "	11.66 " " " "
1932	...	49 "	17.3 " " " "
1931	...	27 "	10.97 " " " "
1930	...	28 "	12.33 " " " "

INFLUENZA.

The incidence of influenza during the year was again of a mild type and calls for no special mention.

DISINFECTION.

Upon removal of cases of infectious diseases to Hospital or upon recovery of cases nursed at home, the rooms are disinfected with formalin and the bedding removed for steam disinfection.

Disinfection is also carried out after death from tuberculosis and if requested after death from cancer.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Diphtheria	33	...	...	1	2	3	21	4	1	1	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	89	...	5	1	8	7	49	8	4	7	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	24	...	...	...	...	2	7	1	1	6	...	6	1
Erysipelas	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken Pox	97	3	3	2	4	7	66	5	6	1	...	...	...
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

In addition, the following have been notified from various Institutions :—

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	3	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Puerperal Fever	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..
Pneumonia	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken Pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Small Pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASE.	Total Deaths	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Diphtheria	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	3	6
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives details of the cases notified and deaths occurring during the year :

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1—5	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	1
5—10	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
10—15	2	....	2	....	....	....	....	....
15—20	1	1	....	....	1	2	....	....
20—25	1	3	....	....	1	4	....	....
25—35	8	4	....	....	3	....	....	....
35—45	3	3	1	....	2	....	....	....
45—55	1	1	....	....	....	1	....	1
55—65	1	....	....	....	2	....	....	....
65 and upwards	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Totals	17	12	3	1	9	7	....	2

16 of the 33 cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year, and 5 cases notified previous to 1935 were removed to Sanatoria for treatment during the year.

Previous notification of the disease was not received with regard to three of the deaths occurring during the year.

Under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1924, returns have to be made quarterly to the County Medical Officer, giving a summary of the Tuberculosis Register for the District. The following is a statement of the number of cases on the Register at the beginning and end of the year :—

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		Total.
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
Number on Register at commencement of Year	115	80	23	36	254
Number on Register at end of Year	119	73	25	34	251

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

PARTICULARS OF ATTENDANCES AT THE CHILD WELFARE CLINIC.

(a) Children attending at beginning of 1935, ages at beginning of year :—

	Under 3 mos.	3-6 mos.	6-9 mos.	9-12 mos.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	Totals for each day
Tuesday	5	10	16	12	23	17	8	6	97
Thursday	7	12	17	10	24	16	15	10	111
Friday	9	8	15	5	32	15	15	8	107
Totals	21	30	48	27	79	48	38	24	315

(b) New entrants, ages at entry :—

	Under 3 mos.	3-6 mos.	6-9 mos.	9-12 mos.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	Totals for each day
Tuesday	113	16	9	5	6	3	1	—	153
Thursday	31	2	—	—	2	9	3	7	54
Friday	111	35	16	6	6	5	2	—	181
Totals	255	53	25	11	14	17	6	7	383

(c) Children attending at beginning of 1936, ages at beginning of year :—

	Under 3 mos.	3-6 mos.	6-9 mos.	9-12 mos.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	Totals for each day
Tuesday	5	17	20	19	37	2	2	—	102
Thursday	—	—	—	—	30	53	35	19	137
Friday	5	25	19	25	32	—	—	—	106
Totals	10	42	39	44	99	55	37	19	345

Number of mothers attended the Clinics, 620.

Total attendances of mothers, 8,555.

Of the number of infants registered 255 were under the age of three months on registration.

During the year the Clinics have been re-arranged, two days, Tuesday and Friday, being reserved for infants and Thursday for toddlers. This arrangement is proving to be very satisfactory both for the children and Dr. Crawford.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

Total number of cases on register during year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	160
Number of new cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	126
Number of Clinics held	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Total number of attendances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	419
Average attendance per clinic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8.38

The particulars of the 126 new cases who attended the Clinic during the year 1935 are as follows:—

Normal cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Abnormal cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Cases showing other conditions requiring treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Not pregnant	...	...	...	...	...	...	19

Analysis of abnormal ante-natal cases:—

Contracted pelvis	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Malpresentations:—							
Breech	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Occipito posterior	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Twins	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hydramnios	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Toxaemias:—							
Pre-eclampsia	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Albuminuria	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscarriage	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Retroverted gravid uterus associated with extensive vomiting	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Retroverted gravid uterus with retention of urine	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Antepartum hæmorrhage and placenta prævia	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Fibroids and pregnancy	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Other conditions requiring treatment (frequently more than one present in same patient):—

Dental caries and pyorrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Varicose veins	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Cardiac disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Leucorrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Hæmorrhoids	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

BIRTH CONTROL CLINIC.

This Clinic was established on January 15th, 1935. Dr. Lynette Hemmant was appointed visiting Medical Adviser. The Clinic is held monthly and 51 cases have been dealt with during the year. Advice is only given on the recommendation of the Medical Officer of the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic or a Medical Practitioner.

MATERNITY HOME.

Arrangements are made for the admission of cases into the British Home for Mothers and Babies, Woolwich, and financial assistance is given according to scale of income.

PUERPERAL FEVER and PUERPERAL PYREXIA REGULATIONS 1926.

Arrangements have been made under these regulations for:—

- (a) The admission of cases requiring hospital treatment into the North Western Hospital of the London County Council.
- (b) The services of an obstetric consultant when required.
- (c) The Dartford District Nursing Association to undertake home nursing where hospital treatment is not necessary.

Four cases of Puerperal Pyrexia and four cases of Puerperal Fever were notified during the year. All were notified from the County Hospital with the exception of one case of Puerperal Fever.

The investigation of maternal deaths is undertaken by the County Medical Officer.

TREATMENT OF SQUINT.

Arrangements are in force for the treatment of squint in children under school age by the School Ophthalmic Surgeon. One case was referred for treatment during the year.

ORTHOPÆDIC TREATMENT.

During the year two children received treatment under the Kent County Council scheme for the orthopædic treatment of children under school age.

DENTAL TREATMENT TO MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.

Four children and one mother were granted assistance in accordance with the Council's Scheme for dental treatment during the year.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Two cases were notified during the year and both cases were treated at home and recovered without impairment of vision.

Children requiring treatment for Ophthalmia Neonatorum can be received into St. Margaret's Hospital by arrangement with the London County Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS 1925.

No action has had to be taken with regard to cases of Tuberculosis in persons connected with the milk trade.

SECTION 62 PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1925.

No action has been taken during the year with regard to compulsory removal of cases of Tuberculosis under this section.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The Kent County Council is the Authority dealing with this group of diseases. A local Clinic is held by them at The County Hospital.

MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDERS 1919 and 1921.

During the year 1935 the amount of milk supplied under these Orders was as follows :—

12,397 pints free.
1,425 pints half price.
271 lb. dried milk free.
6 lb. „ „ half-price.

CHILDREN ACT, 1908, Part 1 and CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS ACT, 1932.

The main object of the above is to secure that any child under nine years of age maintained “for reward” shall be notified to the Local Authority in order that supervision of the home conditions and the health of the child can be carried out.

Miss A. A. Brimble, Health Visitor, carries out the duties of Infant Protection Officer.

Number of visits paid to foster children during the year	...	...	...	134
Number of foster mothers on register at end of year	...	...	...	15
Number of foster children on register at end of year	...	...	...	18

HOME VISITATION.

VISITS OF HEALTH VISITORS.

The following visits were paid by your Health Visitors during the year ;

Number of new-born infants visited	...	...	...	425
Number of visits to infants under 1 year	...	...	...	1622,
Number of children on register over one year	...	...	...	1,322
Number of visits to children over one year	...	...	...	3870,
Total visits	...	...	...	5,492

In addition to these visits the following have been paid :—

Ante-natal visits (to 126 individual cases)	...	...	222
Birth control „ („ 50 „ „)	...	...	137
Death enquiries	...	...	10

VOLUNTARY WORKERS.

The Lady Voluntary Workers at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre have made themselves responsible during the year, not only for the keeping of the registers of mothers and children attending the Clinic, but also for the weighing of babies.

I am very grateful to them for this extra work they have kindly undertaken and thank them and the donors of prizes for the Baby Show and social evening, and to all who assisted in making these events a success, on behalf of the Corporation.

Appended hereto are the following :—

- (1). Report of the Sanitary Inspector.
- (2). Report on the Inspection of Factories, Workshops, etc., in the District.

I am,

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

T. FARTHING,

Medical Officer of Health.

Annual Report of Sanitary Inspector.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to report as follows on the Sanitary Inspection, etc., of the Borough for the year 1935 :—

INFECTIOUS DISEASE WORK.

Cases investigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	134
Premises disinfected (Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
" " (other infectious diseases)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	112
Sets of bedding disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	201
In addition to the above 62 disinfections of verminous houses were carried out.								

HOUSING (CONSOLIDATED) REGULATIONS 1925.

Number of houses systematically inspected and recorded	...	...	60
Notices re defects served on Owners :—			
Preliminary—Served 58 : Complied with 60 : in hand, Dec. 31st	...	...	41
Statutory— " 1 : " 1 : " " "	...	...	None
Houses put in order during year including those dealt with under Section 19, Housing Act, 1930	...	...	60

ACTION TAKEN WITH REGARD TO OTHER NUISANCES FOUND.

Preliminary Notices served, 174 : complied with 178 : in hand, Dec. 31	...	...	33
Statutory Notices " 9 : " " 13 : " "	...	...	None

COMPLAINTS.

331 complaints of Nuisances, etc., have been received during the year and duly investigated and dealt with.

DRAINAGE WORK.

Number of Drains tested by water— New Buildings	...	...	...	1467
" " " " " " Existing Buildings and Works	...	...	...	24
" " " " " " under notice	...	...	...	334
" " " " " " smoke—New Buildings	...	...	...	11
" " " " " " Existing Buildings and Works	...	...	...	1836
" " " " " " under notice	...	...	...	214
Total number of drains tested during year	...	...	...	214
Number of drains cleared by the Department	...	...	...	214

Of the drains cleared by the department 50 were in connection with the Council houses and various other properties owned by the Corporation.

INSPECTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH FOOD SUPPLY.

Slaughterhouses.

Number on Register—Licenced	...	...	...	...	...	None
Registered	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	254

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, 1926

Registered Purveyors (Wholesale)	6
" (Retail)	37
(Including 9 dealers registered for the sale of sterilised milk in unopened bottles)	
The premises of 16 of the Registered Purveyors are situated outside the Borough.	
Number of Cowsheds 6 ... Inspections	52
Number of Dairies 9 ... Inspections	93
Number of Milkshops 3 ... Inspections	11
Number of contraventions of the Order dealt with	3

Proceedings were taken during the year against a Dairyman for bottling milk on the public highway and a fine of £2 and costs was imposed.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS.

The following licences were in force during the year :—

Certified (supplementary dealers)	2
Grade A (T.T.) Bottling and Dealers	3
Dealers only	3
Supplementary Dealers	3
Grade A. Pasteurised, Supplementary Dealers	1
Pasteurised. Supplementary Dealers	3

SAMPLES OF MILK.

During the year 12 samples of Graded Milk were taken, 4 of which did not comply with the prescribed conditions. In one case, owing to two samples not complying, the dealer changed his source of supply.

One sample of milk for tuberculosis was taken from a cowshed in the district and proved negative.

The department has co-operated with the Kent County Council in ensuring a proper milk supply to the local schools and two samples of milk were taken on arrival at the dairy. The samples taken at the schools are taken by the County Council's own officers.

OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Meat and other Food Inspections	245
Market Stall and Hawkers' Cart Inspections	97
Fried Fish Shop Inspections	56
Bakehouse Inspections	38

UN SOUND FOOD DEALT WITH AND DESTROYED.

The total quantity of unsound food surrendered and destroyed during the year was 6 cwt. 3 qrs. 26 lb., details of which are as follows :—

Beef.—1 qr. 12 lb.
Pork.—1 qr., 13 lb
Organs.—2 qrs. 19 lb., including 2 pigs' plucks and 4 beasts' livers.
Fish.—1 qr. 26 lb.
Tinned Goods.—1 qr. 8 lb. (45 tins).
Other Foods.—4 cwt. 3 qrs. 4 lb., including 28 chickens.

No seizures of food were made during the year. The food destroyed was surrendered on request after inspection.

The mutual Insurance Schemes of the Dartford, Sevenoaks, and Rochester Cattle Markets is, as in previous years, of great assistance in dealing with the home-killed meat supply of the district. Under these schemes, on the payment of a premium by both buyer and seller compensation is granted, on the certificate of the Sanitary Inspector, for diseased carcases or portions of carcases.

LODGING HOUSES ETC.

On February 1st, 1935, new byelaws with regard to houses let in lodgings came into force and gave a greater measure of control over this class of house. Five houses in the Borough came within the scope of these byelaws. One of these has been converted into business premises. Two were represented by the Medical Officer of Health as unfit for human habitation and are now void and the subject of a Demolition Order. Of the remaining two, the basement rooms of one ceased to be used under a Closing Order and the remaining rooms and the other house were so altered as to comply with the Byelaws.

Number of Common Lodging Houses on Register	1
Number of Houses let in lodgings on Register (December 31st)	2
Inspections	52

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

A circular letter was sent to all shopkeepers in the Borough regarding the provisions of the above Act.

Number of inspections made	234
Notices served regarding contraventions (other than preliminary intimation)	5
Contraventions abated during the year	3

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number of Fried Fish Shops on Register	10
Seven of these are subject to annual renewal of permission, under Section 44, Public Health Act, 1925.	
Number of Rag and Bone Dealers	2
" " Tanyards	1
" " Knacker's Yards	1
" " Inspections	77

OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Stableyards, Piggeries, etc., Inspected	93
Inspections re Tents, Vans, and Sheds Bye-Laws	13
Inspections of Cinemas	5
Re-inspections and visits to Work in progress	1,279
Visits re Applications for Council Houses	522

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

During the year 26 inspections were made under the above. Advice was given with regard to dealing with these pests and in certain cases poison baits were laid down with good results. Where considered necessary the drains of the premises were smoke-tested and any defects dealt with.

SMOKE NUISANCES.

During the year 13 observations have been taken of the smoke emitted by the chimneys in the various works. One smoke nuisance was remedied during the year.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Legal proceedings were taken on two occasions during the year with the following results:

- (1) Order made to comply with Statutory Notice under Section 91 of the Public Health Act, 1875, and defendant ordered to pay costs.
- (2) A dairyman was summoned for bottling milk in the street contrary to the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926. Fine of £2 and costs imposed.

NUISANCES REMEDIED AND WORK CARRIED OUT UNDER THE VARIOUS NOTICES DURING THE YEAR.

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Eaves, gutters and rainwater pipes repaired and renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
External brickwork repaired, re-pointed or rendered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Damp walls remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
House or part of house cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
Interior walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
Lighting or Ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Broken sash cords replaced	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Defective floors and other woodwork repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Separate water supply (in place of common tap) provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Defects in connection with water supply remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Cooking apparatus repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Washing coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Food cupboards ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Sink, etc., waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
New sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Yard paving repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Gulley fenders repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Nuisance from cesspool	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Drains re-constructed (No. of houses)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	236
Defective vent shafts or fresh air inlets repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
New manholes provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
W.C.'s repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
W.C.'s reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
New W.C.'s provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective ashbins renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Ashbins substituted for open ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Nuisances from the keeping of animals remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Accumulations of manure or offensive refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Other nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29

I am,

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Your Obedient Servant,

WALTER E. BALCHIN,

Sanitary Inspector.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

Including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.

PREMISES.	NUMBER OF		
	Inspection	Defects found	Defects remedied
Factories (including Factory laundries)	31	6	3
Workshops (including Workshop laundries)	66	3	3
Workplaces (other than outworkers' premises)	14	...	...
Total	111	9	6

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

PARTICULARS.	NUMBER OF DEFECTS.			Number of Prose- cutions.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses	2	2	...	...
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	...	...
Want of Ventilation	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...
Want of Drainage of floors	1	...	...	...
Other nuisances	2	...	...	...
Sanitary accommodation {	(Insufficient	1	...	...
	Unsuitable or defective	2	1	...
	Not separate for sexes	...	...	...
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses (S.101).	...	...	...	...
Other offences	...	...	...	...
Total	9	6	...	...

HOME WORK.

No. of Lists received 6. Inspections 8.

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

WORKSHOPS ON THE REGISTER AT THE END OF THE YEAR.										Number.
Bakehouses*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dressmakers and Milliners			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Boot Repairers		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Tailors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cycle and Motor Repairers		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Joiners and Carpenters	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Other Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Total										61

*There are also 9 Factory Bakehouses in the District.

